

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Francis G. Murray was born on May 18, 1916, on his grandfather's ranch near Redwater, South Dakota, he later moved to Sturgis and attended Saint Martin's Academy; and,

Whereas, Francis joined the National Guard and was one of the first Americans to be sent overseas in WWII, he was captured and held prisoner for 24 months in Stalag III B, in Furstenburg, Germany; and,

Whereas, Francis married Dolores Eixenberger on October 18, 1945, and to this union seven children were born, and who in return presented Francis with 23 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; and,

Whereas, Francis retired in 1978, after working over 20 years at the VA Hospital at Fort Meade. Francis and Delores also managed Wingspread, a group home in Sturgis, and over the years became "Mom" and "Dad" to many young men; and,

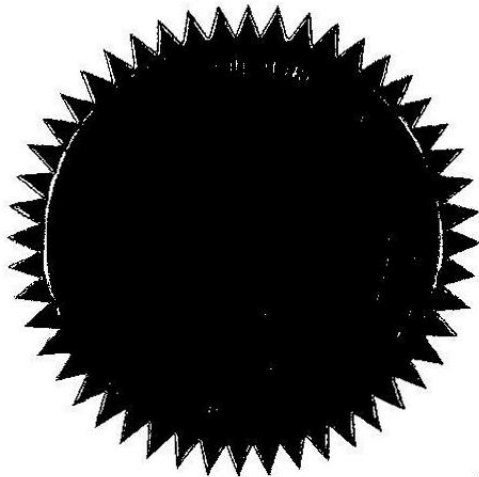
Whereas, Francis will observe his 87th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as his friends and relatives gather to honor him and celebrate his life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 18, 2003, as

FRANCIS G. MURRAY DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all his many friends and relatives in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.



M. Michael Rounds

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State